Rev amping of EPF

1043. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken up a project of revamping the Employees' Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the revamping is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernization through the Project 'Re-inventing EPF India' involving Business Process Re-engineering, re-tooling of Accounting System and development of comprehensive Application Software towards achieving organisational goals including settlement of claims within two to three days and service to members from any geographical location in the country. This project also provides for the allotment of a permanent and unique number i.e. National Social Security Number (NSSN) to Provident Fund members for independent identification.

(c) As per schedule, the project is to be implemented by April, 2004 in the six pilot centres.

Provident Fund contribution by private sector employees

1044. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in private sector who are making contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund as on March 31, 2003;

(b) the arrears that the employers have to pay towards E.P.F.;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that arrears are cleared during the next three years; and

(d) the steps proposed against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As on 31.03.2003, the total of employees who are members of the Employees' Provident Fund are 394.98 lakhs.

(b) Contributions payable by employer as well as employees are to be remitted by the employer. The total amount of outstanding dues as on 31.03.2003 were Rs. 1,511.79 crore.

(c) and (d) An IT assisted monitoring system has already been implemented to detect the defaulters. As regards the recovery of arrears, besides regular penal actions as provided in the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the following steps have also been taken for recovery of outstanding dues:-

(i) Representations in courts have been strengthened to get stay orders vacated and counter writ-petitions.

(ii) A separate Directorate of Recovery to monitor and coordinate the recovery work including closer coordination with BIFR, Standing Counsel of the Organisation etc. has been set up recently.

EPF arrears

1045. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the arrears of EPF at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of companies involved, State-wise;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to privatise EPF and Pension Fund and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any rules have been framed in this regard and workers have agreed to; and

(e) if not, the safeguards provided for safety of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The total amount of arrears as on 31.10.2003 is Rs. 1962.08 crores and the region-wise break up is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The number of major defaulters having default of Rs. 10 lakh and above, region-wise is also given at annexure.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of the reply to (c) above.